

## Work Environment Group

Number 18  
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# HAZARD ALERT

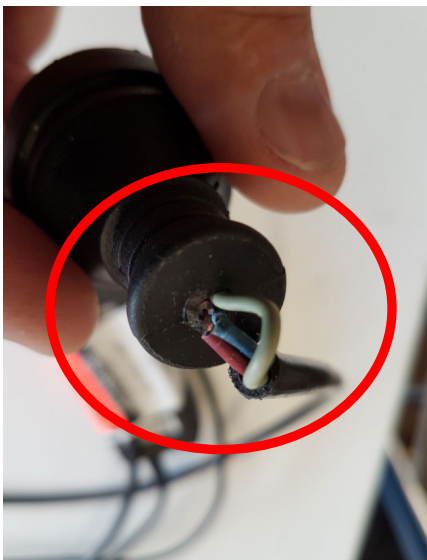
## Personal Electrical Appliance – Electrical Shock

### Incident

A notifiable incident occurred on 22 July 2020 within the John Curtin School of Medical Research (JCSMR), Acton Campus, where a staff member received an electrical shock while conducting electrical testing and tagging. An ambulance was called and the injured staff member was taken to hospital where they were monitored for several hours before being released. They are expected to make a full recovery.

This incident was caused due to the staff member coming into contact with exposed wires from a personal laptop charger that had been brought into the workplace. The charger lead was severely damaged (see image 1 and 2 below) but had continued to be used which created an unacceptable safety risk.

Comcare inspectors attended the site in response to the incident and subsequently issued a number of directions on the measures that the University must take to remedy the risk.



**Image 1:** Damaged parts at the plug.



**Image 2:** Damaged parts at the charger end.

**Intended Audience:** All staff and students  
**Contact:** [whs@anu.edu.au](mailto:whs@anu.edu.au) for additional information  
**Authorised by:** Work Environment Group

Workers are reminded to report all hazards and incidents to their supervisor and through [Figtree](#), the University's Workplace safety incident and hazard reporting tool.

### **Actions required – all staff and students**

- Do not use personal electrical appliances/equipment **unless** they are first inspected, tested and tagged, deemed safe for use and are still in the valid period of electrical testing;
- Do not use an electrical appliance/equipment/plant/item if it is damaged in any way;
- Do not use an electrical appliance/equipment/plant/item if it is discoloured;
- Do not use an electrical appliance/equipment/plant/item if it is overdue for electrical testing and tagging;
- Do not use any item that has been RED TAGGED and do not remove red tags;
- Do not use a double adaptor. Only use power boards with an overload protection;
- Do not use any travel adaptors. Australian leads are available to swap out international plugs.
- Do not attempt to modify any electrical equipment; **AND**
- All staff and students are required to conduct visual inspections before each use of any electrical appliance/equipment/plant/item whether owned by the University or by themselves;

**NOTE:** 90% of items that fail their electrical test, fail on the initial visual inspection. If the item looks damaged or with defects or if there are any concerns, STOP and get it checked out with your Test and Tag Officer.

All local areas are required to conduct frequent visual inspections of portable electrical appliance/equipment/plant/item used in the workplace as a part of their workplace inspection program.

### **Communication**

Communicate this Hazard Alert, highlighting the actions required via staff notice boards, email to staff and other discussions with staff including the WHS Committee meetings and all staff/student meetings.

**Intended Audience: All staff and students**

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